

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 /094 W
-----085202 070057Z /63

R 061508Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8796
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 6996

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK, NI
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: GARBA PRESS INTERVIEW

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. SUMMARY: IN WEEKEND PRESS INTERVIEW ON ZIMBABWE,
MFA COMMISSIONER GARBA PUT IN PLUG FOR ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE
AND EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS WITH CONTINUING DISSENSION IN
PF RANKS. END SUMMARY

2. IN PRESS INTERVIEW OVER JUNE 3-4 WEEKEND,
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER GARBA SAID THAT THE CHOICE
IN ZIMBABWE NOW IS BETWEEN INTENSIFIED ARMED STRUGGLE
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BY PF OR CONVENING AN ALL-PARTY CONFERENCE. ACCORDING
TO DAILY TIMES HE SAID THAT HE AND SECRETARY VANCE,
AFTER RECENT CONSULTATIONS, HAD CONCLUDED IT WAS NECESSARY
TO HAVE ALL-PARTY TALKS. AT THE SAME TIME HE
EXPRESSED HIS UNHAPPINESS WITH THE "LACK OF
HARMONY" IN PF LEADERSHIP WHICH WAS BEING EXPLOITED
BY IAN SMITH. HE FELT ENOUGH HAD BEEN DONE TO UNITE

THE LEADERSHIP AND IT WAS NOW UP TO THEM TO SINK
THEIR DIFFENCES AND "WORK TOGETHER AS A VIRILE TEAM."

3. GARBA ALSO WARNED THAT TO CONFER LEGITIMACY ON
PRESENT "ILLEGAL" ACTIVITIES OF INTERIM GOVERNMENT
IN ZIMBABWE WOULD SET BASIS FOR ENDLESS BLOODSHED. THESE
ACTIVITIES HE LISTED AS INCLUDING APPOINTMENT OF BLACK
AND WHITE MINISTERS, RELEASE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES
AND PROPOSED ELECTIONS ON BASIS OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION LATER THIS YEAR.

4. GARBA POINTED OUT THAT AS SOME STEPS TAKEN SO FAR
BY INTERIM GOVERNMENT BEAR SEMBLANCE TO OBJECTIVES OF
UK-US PROPOSALS, THERE IS RISK THAT INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY WILL "RECONSIDER ITS STAND." HE CALLED ON
AFRICAN MEMBERS OF UN TO MOBILIZE WORLD OPINION TO
BLOCK RECOGNITION OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT.

END UNCLASSIFIED

5. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: GARBA'S INTERVIEW
REPRESENTS FIRST PUBLIC ASSERTION OF FMG'S INCREASING
IMPATIENCE WITH INABILITY OF PF TO GET ITS ACT
TOGETHER. HIS REMARK THAT "ENOUGH HAD BEEN DONE TO
UNITE THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FRONT" INDICATES THE
NIGERIANS MAY HAVE GIVEN UP THEIR EFFORTS TO BRING
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THE TWO FACTIONS TOGETHER. AT THE VERY LEAST IT IS
AN ADMISSION BY GARBA THAT ALL THEIR EFFORTS TO DATE
HAVE BEEN IN VAIN.
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